

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

The following set of principles elaborate on the basic components of sustainability: Economy, Environment, and Equity, to reflect the key challenges for Santa Barbara. Maintaining Santa Barbara's natural and historic resources and community character are integral to all three components.

Economy

- The vitality and long-term health of the Santa Barbara economy relies on maintaining the City as a center for commerce, tourism, education, employment, institutions, medicine, culture and recreation for the South Coast region, as well as encouraging economic retooling that improves the natural environment, while improving social equity.
- A fiscally sound municipal government is essential to actively support the types of public services, infrastructure, and facilities that will be required to move the community towards a more sustainable future.

Environment

- Living within Our Resources means effectively managing growth and in-fill development to conserve the community's natural, physical and historic resources for present and future generations. Challenges between future development and resource use must be met with creative solutions that meet the multiple objectives of preserving historic resources and community character, retaining a diverse population and culture, and allowing sufficient growth to propel a steady economy.
- Efficiently and effectively managing and protecting our natural and physical resources entails practicing innovative strategies that achieve protection, conservation, enhancement, reduced consumption, reuse, recycling, self-sufficiency, and adaptation to changing climate conditions, should they occur.
- Historic resources and the small town character of Santa Barbara need to be protected both downtown and in the neighborhoods by preserving, maintaining and reusing historic structures. In addition, by preserving and enhancing the human scale of architecture, public open space, landscaping, neighborhood-serving commercial uses, and public views.
- Circulation within, to and from Santa Barbara should fully utilize all available modes of transportation. If fossil fuels become increasingly scarce and prices rise, the City may need to dramatically accelerate efforts to plan, improve and build viable alternatives such as transit, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian/wheel chair access ways.

Equity

- Socio-economic diversity is important for maintaining a healthy culture and stable economy, and should be supported through: housing affordable to all income levels and mobility options for a range of income levels; economic policy to encourage livable wages and good jobs; and opportunities for all to participate in education, cultural events and [the arts](#).
- A healthy community requires investment in public infrastructure, facilities and services that provide equal access to open space and recreation, clean air, healthy food, and housing. The plan for the entire community should provide for [all life phases](#)~~the full "are of life"~~, the design of the built

environment needs to be responsive to the needs of all, including youth, seniors and people with disabilities.

- All members of the community should be provided with information about and strongly encouraged to participate in community decisions that affect them.
- “Living within Our Resources” includes supporting, maintaining and enhancing our human resource, such as our workforce, in particular workers needed to keep the city functioning for normal day to day living, or in the event of disaster.

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESOURCE CAPACITY

Resource capacity has been an important part of “Living within Our Resources”, and it is an important aspect of sustainability as well.

However, sustainability is a broader, more challenging concept in which resource capacity is but one of several factors to consider in making decisions for the whole of the community. For many resources, their capacity to support a population is not a fixed amount in absolute terms, though it may be at any moment in time. Resource capacities can be increased or decreased depending on life-style preferences, conservation strategies, technological advances, availability of alternative resources or substitutes, and changes in relative resource costs. Santa Barbara can grow and evolve and also retain a high quality of life and an amenable environment, with foresight in the management of its resources.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

An Adaptive Management Program (AMP) contains the evaluation, feedback, and adaptation components of the General Plan to track progress toward achieving the plan’s goals, objectives and desired outcomes. Adaptive management enables revision of policies and implementation measures throughout the 20-year planning period to effect course corrections in response to external trends or to avert future unintended consequences. Incorporating an adaptive management approach supports sustainability by allowing the General Plan to be a living document, maintaining its relevancy through timely adjustments, and reducing the need for major updates that are often after-the-fact and reactive.

In order to measure progress toward General Plan goals, the Sustainability Framework sets out objectives, which are found in the AMP, for each of the elements. The objectives provide the link between the General Plan and the AMP by interpreting the aspirations of the goals into more explicit statements. Objectives can express either a desired end-state or a benchmark toward a desired end-state. While goals generally remain constant, the objectives may change throughout the course of the General Plan either as they are achieved and new objectives are desired, or more relevant measures are developed. Some policies include a monitoring requirement as well.

The components of the AMP include baseline information, community indicators, monitoring procedures and timeframes, and reports. The environmental assessment for the General Plan Update provides much of the baseline data along with other studies.

The community indicators are the applied measures (often referred to as “metrics”) which can be methodically observed, enumerated, calculated, or gauged. Indicators will be developed through review of the baseline data, the objectives, and community and Planning Commission input. Monitoring procedures will employ a variety of methods that may involve statistical evaluation, technical measurement or the use of